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HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

LETTER OF PATRICK HENRY TO WILLIAM GRAYSON.

(Communicated by Mr. Wm. Preston Harrison, Chicago, Ill.)

Prince Edward, March 31st, 1789.

Dear Sir : The appointment of a superintendant of Indian affairs to the South now resting with the president and Senate I am now requested by Briga. Gene'l Joseph Martin to address this to you and to testify whatever I think his past conduct may have merited. From the earliest Date of Hostilities with the British this gentleman was called on as agent for this State, with the Cherokee Indians, to counteract the dangerous Designs then meditated and indeed in great measure matured by the agency Cannon and others. Scanty and uncertain Supplies of goods from us soon gave a preponderancy to the British Interest which nothing but military operations could controul or counterbalance. The embarrassments of congress did not permit them to give to Southern Indian affairs the attention which the safety of this country demanded. The management of them therefore devolved on this Government. From the various situations in which I have been placed, I have had particular regard to this subject and from the first to the last of the War and indeed til the End of the late American Government Mr. Martin has conducted the affairs of this State w^{ch} the Cherokees and Chickasaws some of the little Intercourse which has taken place between the United States & these two Tribes & also with the Creeks & Choctaws. The ascendancy which he soon gained over the cherokees induced the State of No. Carolina to give him the agency for that state & from frequent Intercourse with Gent'n of the Executive there, I learned he gave entire satisfaction except to a party whose constant Endeavours have been used to encroach on the Indians and even to drive them away. To a similar description of men in Virg'a this gentleman's conduct has been exceptionable. To the Executive highly satisfactory, at least during my Time & I think during the whole of his agency. British Emissarys offered Rewards for his scalp to the Indians, partys of whom narrowly missed him from Time to Time; partisans of the new State in No. Carolina afterwards found him obnoxious to their views & as I believe often endangered his Life For his Duty called him to discourage their Disorderly conduct & to thwart their favorite Schemes—I think their present declining condition not a little owing to his efforts exerted under my immediate orders. Their frequent Butcherys of Indians & Refinement in cruelty sufficiently characterize these people who are Mr Martins decided Foes—after bearing the

Heat & Burden of the Day a gentleman of the profession of physic superseded him & to the astonishm't of these people the man who had so many years encountered every Danger & Difficulty in supporting the American Interest & their own Rights was Displaced & the aforesaid gentleman succeeded him. I believe complaints will be made against Mr. Martin but they will come from the new govern't party, I mean Franklinites either in No. Carolina or Virg'a or from some person who wishes to succeed him, now that the Dangers he has braved are past—among his competitors is a Mr. Drumgold I am told whose character I know but very little about but I can say that none can pretend such Length of service and Danger in that Quarter as Mr. Martin, & I am fully persuaded his personal Influence is superior to that of any competition with the Cherokees. If I did not think this gentleman by far the most fit for the agency with these Indians, I should not have troubled you with this long letter and if you will be so good as to use your Influence to procure him the appointment it will be doing him a singular favour for he has I think no acquaintance in Congress. His wife & Family are my neighbours at Leatherwood & I can forward any Letter to him. His last appointment under Congress was for 6 months now expired.

Federal and anti seem now scarcely to exist; For our highest toned Feds say we must have the amendments. But the Enumeration stops at direct Taxtation Treatys Trade &c. &c., so that I perceive it will be a Question of prudence. How far the Temper of the Times will carry the condiscention of party or whether apprehensions will extort concession to any salutary purpose I from my secluded situation cannot guess—You perhaps can tell me how far the appearances tend that way. I hear nothing worth telling you. What Decius says of me, & others say for me the Gazettes have told you. I have not seen them except a few numbers (about 5)—In these he was not lucky enough to hit up on one charge that is warranted by Truth. How lucky it is that he knew me no better, for I know of many Deficiencies in my own conduct, that I can easily conceive myself an unprofitable Servant.—But alas! how difficult is it for human pride to submit to that appellation from others! It is not candid to characterize a system of Government from the men who will ever form the fag end of human society—from the political understrappers who ever follow the footsteps of power and whine and fawn or snarl a bark as they are bid; who ape their Betters & are content with their Leavings, as the wages of the dirty Work assigned them, such men are found in most Govern'ts & no doubt in the American. But whether their superiors will be of a more tolerant spirit is yet to learn. That dirty scribblers will be disowned by their own party I doubt not—But that they are encouraged also as little doubt. To be done with an Invidious subject let me ask you, do the Spaniards really countenance Emigrations to their country beyond the Mississippi's or to the Natchiz. If to the latter,

pray what Right have they to the soil? The British Treaty gives us to 31 North—Georgia can only go due West from the Head of the Altamaha so that the U. S. have a great & valueable Territory stretching from the Head of St. Mary for its Southern Boundary to the Mississippi & up that River to the Intersection of the due West Line of Georgia, which must go from the Head of the Altamaha) the proclama. of 1743 notwithstanding.

[The copy in Mr. Harrison's possession, for the original is lost, is imperfect. Patrick Henry was at this time living at "Leatherwood," Henry Co. For a notice of the attacks on him in the Richmond *Independent Chronicle*, signed *Decius*, see Henry's *Life of Patrick Henry*, II, 435-439. General Joseph Martin, of Henry county, Va., was a distinguished pioneer. He opposed the establishment of the State of Franklin out of western North Carolina, and also the design of Arthur Campbell and other southwestern Virginians to separate that section of Virginia from the mother Commonwealth. The amendments referred to were those proposed by the Virginia Convention of 1788. This letter it is believed is printed for the first time.]

VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE MARYLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

We are indebted to the Edward Wilson James for the following list:
Richmond Enquirer May 13, 1806-May 8, 1812; May 11, 1813-May 7, 1814.

Virginia Gazette Oct. 8, 1772-Dec. 30, 1773; January 5, 1776-Dec. 19, 1778.

Norfolk Gazette and Publick Ledger, Vol. I, Sept. 11, 1804-July 15, 1805; Vol. II, July 17, 1805-Oct. 7, 1805.

BROOKE CORRECTIONS.—In the July issue of "The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography" is an account of the Brooke family by Prof. Brooke of W. Va. I wish to correct two mistakes. The first is Mr. R. Baxter Tuggle married Martha Wilson Berkley, not Buckley of Farmville, Va.

The second is Florence Tuggle married Harry Beverley, not Harry Barkley.

THROCKMORTON CORRECTION.

Referring to the will of Lewis Phillips 24 Aug., 1688. prov. 3 M'oh, 1669-70, published on p'g 82 of the July number of the Magazine and the statement on p'g 84, that :

"Alice sister of the testator married Robert Throckmorton Esq. of

Ellington, Huntingdonshire, and was mother of John Throckmorton who settled in Virginia, see Magazine XIII, 195."

This statement is an error.

Lewis Phillips was the husband of Judith Throckmorton born July 11, 1608, or 21 Dec., 1665, dau. of Gabriel Throckmorton of Ellington Hunts. & Alice dau. & heir of Wm. Bedell of Stockden, Beds. & Mary Cartwright. Judith was an aunt of John Throckmorton who was in Virginia when Lewis Phillips drew his will.

Lewis Phillips must have been connected in some other way with the Throckmorton family as he refers to Albin, Robt. & John as his cousins, he may have meant nephews, however.

C. WICKLIFFE THROCKMORTON.

THE OLDEST EPITAPH IN VIRGINIA.

The stone which bears the following epitaph, the oldest legible one remaining in Virginia, is now in the graveyard at "Four Mile Tree," the old Browne estate on James river in Surry county. It was formerly in the garden there:

"Here lyeth buried the body of
Alice Miles daughter of John
Miles of Brandon in Hertford
Gent. and late wife of Mr. Geo.
Jordan in Virginia who departed this
life the 7th of Jan., 1650.
Reader her dust is here inclosed
who was of art & grace composed
Her life was virtuous, glorious during breath
but highly glorious in her death."

INVENTORY OF AMBROSE FIELDING, 1674.

(Communicated by Dr. J. L. Miller; Thomas, W. Va.)

An Inventory of all & Singular the Goods & Chattells of Mr. Ambrose Fielding Gent: of Wickocomoco Hall Dec'd Appraysed & valued upon Oathe by Us the Subscribers by vertue of an order of Northumberland County Court dated ye 17th Day of March 1674. (Copy.)

Ye Servants.

1 Servt. man Wm. Farecloth 3 years to serve,
1 Do Thos. Holmes 2 Do. 1 Servt. Boy Jno. Sonpin 7 yrs.
1 Do Maide Jane Farecloth 3 Do Do. 1 Do Maide Jane Cooper 2 Do.
1 Negro man Ned. 1 Do Symon. 1 Do Boy Chubb.
1 Do woman Jude. 1 Do girl Prosse. 1 Do Do, Boye Ran.

Ye Stock.

1 Black Cow & Caff. 1 pyde cow & Calf. 2 red Cows 1 Bull.

1 White Do. 1 Red Do. 1 Pr. Oxn. 5 Yerling heyffers. 7 Do Steeres. 4 two yr. old steers. 1 old mare. 1 bay mare. 1 white horse. 1 black horse. 1 two yr. old fylly 2 yerlings. 38 Hoggs & Pigs.

Ye Hall Parlour.

1 Ovell Tabel. 1 Turkey Worke Carpet. 3 pictures. 7 Turkey worke Chears. 3 Rusha leather Do. 4 Family portraits unprayed. 1 Tapstry Couch. 1 Court Cubbard. A pcell of old small Bookes. A pcell of old large bookes. 1 large Bibel. 1 ould Silke cheare. 1 Dutch Carved Chare. 1 pr. brass And Irons. 1 pr. old Silver Candle Sticks. 1 small tabel.

Ye parlour Chamber.

1 ould Leather Cheare. 1 ould silke Do. 1 Great Bedd & cord w'th Curtaines & Vallaines lined w'th Silke teasers & Damaske & Silke Counterpayne. 1 Feather bedd, bowlsters, pillows & two blanketts. 1 Carved Chest w'th locks & keys. 2 pr. Linnen Sheetes 3 Do Billowbers. 2 pr. Canvis Do, 2 Do Canvis Do. 1 pewter Bason, Ewer & Chamber pott. 1 Looking Glass. 1 brasse Candlestick. 1 Warming pann. 1 Ivory Comb. 2 Cloath brush.

The Great Roome

1 Long Dining Tabel. 1 small Tabel. 1 Serving Do. 14 Rush Chears. 1 Large ould bottle Case & bottles. 1 ould chest. 1 small Do. 1 pr. hand Irons. 1 Large Damaske Tabel Cloath & 22 Napkins. 3 ould canvis Do. 13 Do Do. 4 New towelles. 7 ould Do. 1 Cubbard. All ye Earth & Glass Ware. 31 lb old pewter ware att 5d p.p. 10½ lb new Do att 12d p. p.

1 Silver Tankerd w'th ye Fielding Armes on it. 1 small Do markt "A. F." 1 Silver bowle. 1 Do Dram Cupp. 1 Do Sacke. 1 Do Tumblr m'kt w'th ye Armes. 11 Large Silver Spoons 2 small Do Do. 1 Silver Salt. 21 Alchimy Do. 17 quart bottles. 3 brasse Candel stks. 1 brass kittle. 1 ould fowleing peace. 1 muskt. 2 Pistolls. 1 Rapere 1 hanger. 1 brass mortar & pestil.

Ye Chamber over ye hall parlour.

1 Leather Trunk. 1 Chest. 1 ould Do w'th lock. 1 beddstid, cord, Curtaines Vallaines, blankett & Rugg. 1 Feather bedd, bowlsters & pillows. 1 small tabel. 2 rush chears. 1 ould Chamber pott.

1 Looking Glass. 2 horn combes. 1 ink horn. 1 pr. Canvis sheetes. 2 pr. pillowbers. pcell ould sheetes & pillowbers. 1 pr. Virga Shewes. 1 pr. Rusha leather Do. 1 pr. Gloves. 1 Broad cloath Gt. Coat. 1 Do short lind w'th silk. 1 ould cloath Suit. 2 pr. britches. 1 pr. silke Stockings. 2 pr. Cotton do. 1 periwigge old. 1 ould hatt w'th a hole in it. 3 shirts & a pcell of ribband. 1 pr. Silver buckis. 2 pr. Do buttons. 1 Do watch & seale. 1 Do Tobaky box. 1 plain gold ring. 1 Sealed Do. 2 mourning do.

Ye Chamber over ye parlour Chamber.

1 Bedd, cord feather bedd & Furniture. 1 Other Do Do Do. 1 ould trunk. 1 old chest. 1 tabel. 3 tools. 1 pcell old Cloathes & other trumpery.

Ye Oute kitchin & Servts. Roome.

1 pr. and Irons. 1 Large Iron pott. 1 small do. 2 other Do. 1 old Do. 3 pr. pott Racks. 2 Do lids. 1 flesh fork. 4 Spitts. 3 ould Tubbes. 2 new Do. 5 Cyder casks. 2 Cow belles. 1 Ox Chaine & rings a p'cell old Iron trumpery. a p'cell old Carp'trs & Cooper's tooles, a p'cell old bottles, 1 Great Kittle to containe 40 Gals. 1 small brass Do, 1 Drip pan, 3 ould tin pannes, 4 frying pannes—2 ould 2 new, 1 pr. Stillards, 1 brass skimmer, 1 ould tabel & form, 2 Sad Irons, 2 ould Spinning wheeles, a p'cell old ruggs and blankets.

The remainder of this inventory is missing, but probably contained only a list of farm products and farm implements kept in the out buildings. I have omitted from this copy the values attached to each article, but the total value of the appraisement as given is £222. 5. 5.

The inventories of the personal estates of the grandson and great-grandson of Ambrose Fielding—Ambrose F. died 1750, and Ambrose F. died 1764—mention a good many pieces of furniture that seem to be the same as is named in the inventory just given; also several pieces of the jewelry and plate.

 ABSTRACTS OF ENGLISH WILLS.

(Communicated by Mr. Gerald Fothergill, 11 Brussels Road,
New Wandsworth, London.)

In making a new index to the P. C. C. wills these American ones have come to light.

Abstract of Will of Thomas Grendon, of Dukes Place, Cittizen & Draper of London. Dated 15 Dec. 1678.

To Mr. John Harding Cittizen & Grocer of London & Mr. Robert Coe Cittizen & Goldsmith of London whome I make ex'ors & trustees my lands in Fultherley in Shenston, co. Stafford.

By deed dated 17 Nov., 1678, I have given unto Thomas Grendon my grandson all those lands & houses as in the deed appears, that is to say the sayd Thomas Grendon my grandchild now in Virginia for his life & after his decease to his heirs & for default of such heys then to Thomas Jennings my grandson, son of Thomas Jennings late of London, Distiller & for default of issue unto Rebeckah Symonds wife of John Symonds of London, Upholster & to Thomas Symonds son of my said grandchild Rebeckah

To grandchild Thomas Jennings, £50. To Rebeckah Symonds, £50. To Hannah Duke my daughter in Virginia, £10 in full of her part. To my ex'ors, £10 cach.

I give one third of the residue to my wife Elizabeth & the other two thirds between Thomas Grendon, Thomas Jennings & Rebeckah Symonds my grandchildren.

Witnesses : Samuell Stringer, Nowell Bassano.

Sealed 4 April, 1679.

Proved in the P. C. C. 29 Oct., 1680, by oaths of John Harding & Robert Coe the ex'ors.

128, Bath.

[The testator was the grandfather of Thomas Grendon of Virginia, whose will was printed in Waters, 429-431. See also this Magazine I, 441-442.]

Will of Hugh Nevett, 27 July, 1673.

Abstract of will of Hugh Nevett.

To my kinsman John Nevett son of Richard Nevett all my lands & houses on the Blackwater, on the North River conteining 1100 acres bought of George Curtis but if he dies then unto my kinswomen the daughters of my brother Wm. Nevett.

To my three kinswomen the daughters of my brother Richard Nevett 40s. each. I doe order my ex'ors or overseers to take care & provide & maintain my kinswoman the daughter of my brother Arthur Nevett (whom I have sent for to come to mee in Virginia,) at my plantation, both in meat drinke & clothes after a decent manner until such time as she shall dispose or provide for herselfe in case she comes to Virginia.

I do give unto Major Thomas Walker & his wife each of them £5 a peece to be paid by bills of exchange or its value in tobacco. Kinsman Edward Cotton to be overseer of my plantation & to have £14 per ann. du ing overseership & likewise all my wearing apparell.

I do appoint Mr. George Seaton, Mr. John Throckmorton my ex'ors.

5 Oct, 1680. Affidavit of William Nevett who deposes that 4 or 5 years ago he received the above will & that John Nevett the heirs has received most of the property in Virginia; further that George Seaton & John Throckmorton the ex'ors are dead haveing heard so in letters.

Same day. Affidavit of Thomas Walsh who appeared personally. Deposes that he hath been employed in Virginia by the heir. This depoment was in Virginia about February 12 months ago & had discourse with John Throckmorton, Geo. Seaton being then dead. This deponent was in Virginia again about Jan'y last & then John Throckmorton was dead.

5 Oct, 1680. A commission issued to John Nevett the nephew by the brother & principal legatee in will of Hugh Nevett late of Virginia in parts beyond the Seas bachelor dec'd, for that the ex'ors are dead.

P. C. C. 132 Bath.

[Thomas Walker, John Throckmorton and George Seaton were all Gloucester county, Va., men.]